

Examiner to search all three of the alleged groups in a single application and therefore request that they be recombined. Alternatively, Applicants submit that examination of Groups I and II together would not present the Examiner with an undue search burden. Thus, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the following remarks, and withdraw or modify the restriction requirement.

Please amend claim 17 to read as follows:

17. (Twice Amended) A method for microdissecting a tissue specimen, comprising:
exposing the tissue specimen to a fluorescent specific binding agent according to the method of claim 35, wherein the fluorescent specific binding agent is a fluorescently labeled antibody, and wherein the fluorescently labeled antibody specifically binds to a component of interest in the tissue;
washing unbound antibody from the tissue;
intensifying an image of the tissue specimen which has been exposed to the fluorescently labeled antibody, to obtain an intensified fluorescent signal from the tissue;
applying a transfer member to the tissue;
directing a target laser beam to the component of interest in the tissue, to mark the component that is to be dissected from the tissue specimen, while viewing the target laser beam through an infrared filter that selectively filters infrared radiation but not the fluorescent signal, to minimize heat distortion of the intensified image, while still viewing the intensified signal;
and
applying radiant laser energy to the component of interest to transfer the component to the transfer member.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 17 has been amended only to change the grammatical form of the preamble. No new matter has been added by this amendment. After entry of this amendment, **claims 1-12, 14-19, 21, 22, and 24-37 are still pending** in this application.

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement, alleging this application contains three inventions as defined by the following claim groups: